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February 3, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: W. R. SMYSER

SUBJECT: PRG Delegation in Paris Speaks up on Laos

The other side's delegation in Paris have just issued their first comment on reported allied plans for a Laos operation, in the form of a PRG statement.

That statement says all the usual things, concluding that the Vietnamese people will continue to fight. It does not say that our contemplated action would jeopardize the Paris talks, nor does it hint in any way that the talks might be suspended. In fact, it says that the PRG will always show "good will" to settle the Vietnam problem peacefully.

The statement does say that we will be responsible for "all" consequences of our acts, which gives Hanoi an opening if it wants to claim that it warned us. It also says that U.S. preparations for escalation are causing "an extremely grave situation in Indochina."

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Authority E.O 13958
By DJ NARA Date 3-9-00